

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/010,072

Examiner

Peter Prizio

Applicant(s)

KEHLSTADT ET AL.

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 02 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23 now renumbered as claim 1.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 August 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

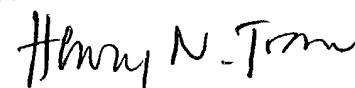
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



HENRY N. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claim 23 is allowed and is now renumbered as claim 1.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art either alone or in combination teaches:

An input device for an electronic system comprising: a housing; electronic circuitry for detecting user inputs and transmitting signals corresponding to said user inputs to said electronic system; a scrolling element for providing a scrolling input signal; a switch button mounted proximate to said scrolling element, said switch button upon activation providing a signal to activate continuous scrolling; wherein said scrolling element comprises a wheel, and said switch button is mounted adjacent and in line with a rotational direction of said wheel; and a second switch button mounted on an opposite side of said wheel from said first mentioned switch button, wherein said first switch button provides a signal for continuous scrolling in a first direction, and said second switch button provides a signal for continuous scrolling in a second direction.

Where none of the prior art teaches an input device specifically comprising a switch button mounted adjacent and in line with a rotational direction of a wheel; and a second switch button mounted on an opposite side of said wheel from said first mentioned switch button, wherein said first switch button provides a signal for continuous scrolling in a first direction, and said second switch button provides a signal for continuous scrolling in a second direction, *See Fig. 1.*

The closest prior art to a continuous scroll is US Patent 5,530,455 to Gillick et al. which describes a "PowerScroll" which is a continuous, user interrupted scrolling and single motion scrolling (column 7, lines 50 – 55 and column 8, lines 29 - 60), however does not include two buttons adjacent and inline with the rotation of a scroll wheel where the buttons are located on opposite sides of said wheel and are used to invoke a continuous scroll in opposite directions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Prizio whose telephone number is (703) 305-5712. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), alternating Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Hjerpe can be reached on (703) 305-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peter Prizio
Examiner
Art Unit 2674

Prizio
November 23, 2004

PP



HENRY N. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER